



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 1
Date: April 8, 2014 6:30pm

Call to Order: 6:53pm (Meeting started late due to venue change to Parks & Recreation at 467 Broadway due to locked door at City Hall)

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair)
Diane Bonavita
Emilie Hauser
Susan Hereth
Lynn Johnson
Kevin McEvoy (Secretary)
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey (unable to attend)
Arthur Zaczekiewicz

Guests: none

I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment: none

II. Modifications to the Agenda: none

III. Review and Approval March 2014 Meeting Minutes: Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Arthur, the minutes to the March meeting with minor revisions were approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business

a. Urban Agriculture: Urban Agriculture Report Resolution has been formally noted as a communication by the common council and referred to public safety committee for review on April 23 at 6:30.

b. Habitat Summary & Mapping: Laura Heady, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Gretchen Stevens, Hudsonia, are to come to next meeting May 13 for a public presentation on the NRI and Habitat Summary; Emilie gave the council an overview of mapping and reports to date including description of Preliminary Review of Open Space and Natural Resources for the City of Kingston document submitted to planning in December 2013; Council Discussed NRI/OSI with regards to inclusion in the City comprehensive planning process currently underway; As an action item the council will issue a formal invite to the May 13 presentation to Mayor Gallo, the City of Kingston Common Council members, the comprehensive planning steering committee members, the comprehensive plan consultants, the Planning Dept staff and planning board members, Town of Ulster Supervisor Quigley, the Town of Ulster Planning Board, the Ulster County Dept of Environment, and Ulster County Environmental Management Council. Ulster County Planning Dept., DEC staff members and other interested agencies, committees, commissions,

organizations including but not limited to RUPCO, Kingston Land Trust and members of the public. Tentative agenda: (i) Introduction and Overview discussion describing natural resource inventory and open space index by Julie;(ii) Natural Resource Inventory description and how does it relate to habitat maps and summaries and open space by Emilie (iii) Comprehensive Plan status and Open Space Planning (iv) Habitat Summary by Laura with focus on habitat summary report with maps, (v) Significant Habitat Mapping by Gretchen with focus on natural resource inventory, habitat mapping including aerial mapping and mention of biodiversity training, (20 minutes each); Suzanne Cahill to be asked to provide a comp plan presentation; (vi) Participatory Mapping Exercise including those attending (vii) Documents and handouts with tables to be set up with materials available including but not limited to Urban Agriculture, Climate Smart Kingston, Tidal Flooding Task Force, Parks & Recreation Master Plan, Complete Streets, Rondout Watershed Mgmt. Plan and the draft NRI/OSI report. As action items, Arthur agreed to put together visuals and the press release with Diane to organize the registration table and with other CAC members to bring food and arrive early for preparation.

c. CAC website/City Website: Any City agency Committee, council and commission web presence outside of City website being brought onto City website. Once transition is completed the new CAC website will be:

<http://www.kingston-ny.gov/kingstoncac>

The former CAC website will redirect to City website where content will be relocated. As an action item, Arthur will look into Facebook.

d. Climate Smart Kingston Resolution: It appears that the Climate Smart Kingston resolution sent same day as urban agriculture did not make it on the Common Council Communication agenda, so it does not have a committee referral.

V. New Business

a. CAC Meet and Greet Event: This event is now coordinated and consolidated with May 13 NRI and habitat Summary presentation. See Old Business Item “b” herein.

b. Smart Meters: The term “smart meter” can refer to RFID type meters with regards to utility companies who can it to monitor usage on the power grid notwithstanding possible security issues such as wireless hacking potential and possible health issues with RFID chips; Common Council Member Brad Will brought up the subject of smart electric meters at the recent Climate Smart Kingston meeting; Further discussion at the CAC resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented. For more information refer to a county legislature memorializing resolution on smart meters dated 12-17-13 entitled Ulster County Legislature Resolution 315 of 2013 (see link here)
<http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/315-13.pdf>

VI. Reports

a. Communications Working Sub-Committee: Arthur to develop draft communications strategy 4-21 @ Kirkland 630PM with Melissa Everett, Allison Teetsel, Michael D’Arcy, Hayes Clement and Paul Rakov which will coordinate with Climate Smart Kingston to focus on developing a comprehensive communications strategy, the scope of which will include outreach, public engagement, a marketing strategy, public relations, soft energy tips, event promotion, Climate Action Plan and CAC initiative promotion, and long term consistent messaging and Facebook administration including messaging branding. The subcommittee will ask for CAC input.

b. EMC Liaison: No one could attend in March. Emilie may be able to attend 4-30-14.

c. Planning Board Meeting Liaison: Casey reported no major projects on the agenda.

d. Public Safety Meeting Liaison: Diane attended the March Common Council Public Safety meeting at which committee indicated they would like to see an NRI map and asked how they can support CAC. Diane discussed with the committee the importance to the City of getting CAC initiatives included in the comprehensive plan in terms of a support possibility.

VII. Announcements:

a. Cary Institute: Cary Institute in Millbrook is hosting a special forum on land conservancy in partnership with Dutchess Land Conservancy on 4-12-2013 from 9AM 1230 PM;
<http://www.caryinstitute.org/newsroom/caring-land-cary-institute-and-dutchess-land-conservancy-host-special-forum>

b. Monarch Butterflies: Milkweed planting to be held at Hodge Center on 4-12 & 4-13 in connection with the Rachel Carson anniversary.

c. Climate Smart Kingston: Climate Smart Kingston is asking for Energy Advocates (formerly referred to as Energy Ambassadors) with an outreach request to follow shortly. Energy Advocates will engage and educate the community in energy reduction initiatives. Mike D'Arcy is leading the initiative with Arthur providing CSK handout documents.

d. UCRRA: Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management will hold a truckload sale on 4-26 at Hudson Valley Mall with rain barrels and compost bins available. Event link below:
<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/PLbinSale.pdf>

e. WLC: Emilie to speak at Woodstock Land Conservancy event on preparing for Climate change on April 9, 14;
<https://www.woodstocklandconservancy.org/index.php/programs/calendar-of-events>

VIII. Adjournment: 8:24pm: Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the council unanimously resolved to adjourn.